

Fake Liberationist Policy

Youth liberationists must be able to spot fake liberationist policy. Fake liberationist policy gets passed when agents of co-option try to derail the movement by offering policies that enforce youth oppression rather than getting rid of it. Fake liberationist policies often serve as their own propaganda, sounding good on the surface but serving to oppress the youth they claim to “help.”

A first example of a fake liberationist policy is teen representatives in Congress, school boards, and advocacy organizations. While it may sound good to have a teen in charge, it is important to remember that youth are human beings. This means that they are susceptible to greed, bribery, and blackmail, and no doubt positions of political power come with all three. The fact is that political incentives for politicians are so overwhelming that teen representatives will act just like any other politician once in office. The only thing that putting teen representatives in organizations designed to dominate youth will do is convince youth that they are being represented, when in fact they are just putting a friendly face on youth oppression. In fact, parents use teen representatives as the face of their more heinous policies in order to prevent mass protest among youth. They are nothing more than figureheads. Teen representatives are a targeted ploy meant to distract youth from the fact that they have no political power. It is not teen representatives that youth need, and voting them in will not change a thing. No, youth need real political power for all youth—the power to vote to change policies in every organization, whether it be the government, school, youth housing organizations, or nonprofits that serve youth. It is not one youth that needs political power for things to change; it is each and every one.

A second example of a fake liberationist policy is the ability of youth to “choose” their home through a court decision. While this seems like a step forward from the past, in reality it transfers youth from one slaver to another. It is unmasked as the transfer of human property from one owner to another. Just because a kid chooses a slaver does not mean the slaver is held accountable. They actually cannot be held accountable since the kid cannot choose to leave at any time and cannot disobey without “punishment.” It is just another master-slave relationship with the added propaganda that it is somehow better or that the kid is somehow freer for choosing the person they want to own them. A slave who is able to choose their slavemaster once, a few times, or even many times in their life is not anything other than a slave. Lastly, the fact that the kid needs the court to sign off on movement to another home is a demonstration of power and dominance, a warning that the kid cannot escape the grasp of their master. These court decisions serve as a reminder that no matter where they end up, they will still be bound by the same slave laws as before, still unable to leave, and still owned by the new appointed guardian.

A third example of a fake liberationist policy is group homes, which are run by “safe adults,” or “people of God,” or “trauma-informed specialists.” These predatory agencies are designed to put out propaganda that pretends they are accountable to youth, when in reality they are some of the most brutal living environments. They are designed to not be accountable to youth because youth are disenfranchised in these homes and cannot even vote on the policies of the group home. They cannot vote on where money is being spent or what the bylaws are. Naturally, this disenfranchisement lends itself to oppression. The beating, starvation, and rape of youth is much more common inside these group homes than in the general youth population. Youth who speak out against this mistreatment are “troubled,” because they couldn’t possibly dislike the generous “free” housing and “safe” and “healing” living space that the group homes provide. In this way, group homes oppress youth while also providing their own propaganda to discredit those who speak out against them.

How to Disobey Your Parents

One mistake that youths make in trying to disobey their parents is that they start too big. Parent brainwashing is powerful, and the fear of punishment is very strong. Youths think too big and end up never stepping foot out of line. That’s a shame, because disobedience is a wonderful thing that should be celebrated. It is the start of independence, personal identity, and freedom.

The best way to start disobeying your parents is to take small steps and keep it secret.

This example only works if you live on the ground floor of your house and have a bedroom window. If your parents say that you’re not allowed to go outside at night, poke your head out the window at night so that you’re technically disobeying them. After a few weeks of doing that, put your foot outside the window so that your foot is on the ground outside. Now you’ve officially touched the ground outside. You’ve taken another step forward in your quest for disobedience. A few weeks later, plant both feet firmly on the ground right outside your bedroom window. Now you have officially broken their rule. It might seem small, but a journey of a thousand miles begins with just a single step.

For youth who are not allowed to use swear words in the house, learning swear words in a different language is effective at breaking the taboo against disobedience. This way, youth can disobey the no-swearing rule while avoiding confrontation with their parents.

In general, if you want to disobey your parents, use 'The Method' (detailed in DWYW, Issue 3). We can model it here for eating food when you are told not to eat food outside of certain times (like dinner or breakfast).

Step 1: Eat one or two peanuts (we will be using small bags of peanuts for this analogy). This will feel like too little, and you will want to eat more. Don't cave in to the feeling. Also, don't eat the peanuts in front of your parents. Disobeying their rule in front of them will get your disobedience shut down quickly. Continue Step 1 for 41 days.

Step 2 (optional; you can move onto Step 5): Increase the amount of peanuts you eat, maybe four or five. Continue Step 2 for 41 days.

Step 3 (optional; you can move on to Step 5): Increase the amount of peanuts you eat. Maybe five or six, maybe ten. Continue Step 3 for 41 days.

Step 4 (optional; you can move on to Step 5): Increase the amount of peanuts you eat. Instead of ten peanuts, maybe twenty. Again, keep your feeling of needing to write more under control. Don't give in. Continue Step 4 for 41 days.

Step 5: Eat more than 20 peanuts, or the entire bag of peanuts (assuming it's more than 20 peanuts but not more than double). Once you've completed this step, you have officially broken the rule of not eating when your parents don't want you to. Congratulations! You have achieved a small degree of bodily autonomy. Now that you have used the method to break the "no-eating outside of dinner rule," you don't have to eat peanuts every day; that would get old quickly. Now, you only eat when you feel like it. You've deliberately and systematically broken the rule your parents set out for you, and now you are successfully disobedient. You're probably waiting for a bunch of trumpets and fanfare, a pat on the back by someone else, or at least a rush of exhilaration. None of those will happen, except maybe the rush. For some people, there will be a rush. For others, there won't be. The rush is not the point; the point is that you now have options open to you that you didn't before. With your first step into disobedience, you can start doing things that adults can do. With disobedience, you can do some cool new things, as long as you keep them secret. With disobedience, you gain the ability to sneak out after dark, to eat ice cream when your parents tell you not to, to hang out with friends when they want you to be at home studying, to have relationships, to watch PG-13 and R movies, to gossip and swap secrets, to sneak food from the pantry, to talk about how terrible your parents are, and to go to sleep whenever you want. Remember, just be sure to keep your disobedience secret, or your parents will tighten control over

you and dole out worse punishments than you thought they were even capable of.

Disobedience is part of a larger story of youth finding their own identity. Virtually every child is ordered to do things that have no purpose other than to enforce obedience. Don't stick out your tongue, don't swear, don't be rude, don't spoil your dinner, don't wear that skirt, don't wear that dress, don't go out at night, don't leave the table until you've finished your food, and so on and so forth. By breaking these rules, youth learn that they can have a lot more control over their world if given the chance. They understand the oppression that parent-slavers create, but only once they push the boundaries. By understanding so much of how wrong their parents are, youth begin to explore the world for real. They understand that they are not owned, that their own company is a privilege, that their worth is unaffected by whatever their parents feel or say, and that parents are indisputably terrible at making decisions for kids.

Rather than being a sign of a "troubled" youth, disobedience is the birth of all things good.

Bad behavior from parents is not excusable as "stupidity"

Parents often sabotage youth. They say things like, "I won't allow you to go out with friends that I don't give the green light to first," and then refuse to give the green light to any friends or only one(s), who they like. Some say, "You're not allowed to eat outside of dinner," but if the kid doesn't eat at dinner, they are forced to go hungry. They say, "The world is a nice place, and everyone is here to help each other," and then tell their kids that they are liars when they complain about bullies at school. They yell at and insult their kids, then pretend like their kids are having mood problems when they become anxious and depressed. They constantly speak for/about their kids as if their kids are greedy and ungrateful and mean and they themselves are devoted and selfless and unloved, which effectively prevents later accusations of child abuse from being believed. They punish their kids in cruel and unusual ways, and then when the kids complain, they say, "My blood pressure is rising," "You're stressing me out," or "You're damaging my mental health."

When these behaviors are ever called out by someone of greater standing (not kids, but an authority figure), parents claim ignorance. They say, "I didn't know, I didn't realize that I was hurting my child by vetting their friends/making my kids eat at a certain time/giving them tough-love" and proceed to go on a huge guilt trip about how they are a loving mother or father and all they have ever done is for their kid, and "woe is me, I'm just an overworked and abused parent struggling with ungrateful, needy kids trying to survive in this tough economy." These behaviors are the definition of dishonesty, the definition of malice, and are too evasively

nefarious to be done with good intentions. They are the definition of weaseling, backstabbing, and sabotage. These behaviors are sadistic.

Yet, every generation, parents play the same old games, hurting youth and then backpedaling and bemoaning their circumstances and complaining about how very devoted and self-sacrificing parents they are. This is a game as old as humans, not unique to any parent. This time, however, we have the power to change that. With the spread of electronics, we now have the power to catalog and document this behavior and post it online for future youths to see. Now, youth can read about these behaviors online and see through them when their parents try them. While parents have played this game for all of human history, the time when that behavior will be seen as benign is over. The time when the manipulation tactics that parents use on youths are unknown is coming to an end.

We youth liberationists form the beginning of a great avalanche. We gather in size and speed as we hurtle downward, already unstoppable. That avalanche is youth liberation. Liberation *will* come.